

a.) Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The A liver function protecting or improving agent according to any of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the which comprises, as an active ingredient, an extract of the a residue obtained by extracting a plant of the family *Saxifragaceae* is an alcoholic with an aqueous medium, in which the extract of is obtained by extracting the residue of an aqueous medium extract of the plant of the family *Saxifragaceae* with alcohol or water containing alcohol.

B1

Claims 7-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The A food and or drink according to any one of Claims 9 to 11, wherein the which comprises an extract of the a residue obtained by extracting a plant of the family *Saxifragaceae* is an alcoholic with an aqueous medium, in which the extract of is obtained by extracting the residue of an aqueous medium extract of the plant of the family *Saxifragaceae* with alcohol or water containing alcohol.

Claims 17-23 (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) The A feed according to any of Claims 17 to 19, wherein the which comprises an extract of the a residue which is obtained by extracting a plant of the family *Saxifragaceae* is an alcoholic with an aqueous medium, in which the extract of is obtained by extracting the residue of an aqueous medium extract of the plant

of the family Saxifragaceae with alcohol or water containing alcohol.

Claims 25-29 (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) The An additive for food or drink foods and drinks according to Claim 29, wherein the plant for protecting liver function from damage from excessive intake of alcohol, or for improving liver function impaired from intake of alcohol, which comprises an isolated belonging to the genus *Hydrangea* is *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var. *Thunbergii* Makino or *Hydrangea Dulcis Folium*, or an extract of the plant.

(B)

31. (Currently Amended) The An additive for food or drink foods and drinks according to Claims 25 or 26, wherein the having liver function protecting or improving activity, which comprises an extract of the a residue obtained by extracting a plant of the family Saxifragaceae is an alcoholic with an aqueous medium, in which the extract of is obtained by extracting the residue of an aqueous medium extract of the plant of the family Saxifragaceae with alcohol or water containing alcohol.

Claims 32-36 (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) The A method for protecting liver function from damage from excessive intake of alcohol, or for improving liver function impaired from intake of alcohol, which comprises administering, to a human in need thereof, feed additive according to Claim 36, wherein the an isolated plant belonging to the genus *Hydrangea* is *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var. *Thunbergii* Makino or *Hydrangea Dulcis Folium*, or

an extract of at least one of the plants.

38. (Currently Amended) The A feed additive according to Claims 32 or 33, wherein the having liver function protecting or improving activity, which comprises an extract of the a residue obtained by extracting a plant of the family *Saxifragaceae* is an alcoholic with an aqueous medium, in which the extract of is obtained by extracting the residue of an aqueous medium extract of the plant of the family *Saxifragaceae* with alcohol or water containing alcohol.

B1
Claims 39-42 (Cancelled)

43. (Currently Amended) A method of protecting liver function from damage from excessive intake of alcohol, or for improving liver function impaired from intake of alcohol, in an animal, which comprises administering feeding the, to an animal with the liver function protecting or improving agent according to any of Claims 1 to 5 or the feed according to any of Claims 17 to 19 in need thereof, an effective amount of an isolated plant of the family *Saxifragaceae*, or an extract of the plant.

44. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 43, wherein the animal is selected from the group consisting of livestock, poultry and cultivated fish a human.

Claims 45-48 (Cancelled)

49. (Currently Amended) The A food and, drink or feed according to

Claim 48, wherein the for protecting liver function from damages from an excessive intake of alcohol, or for improving liver function impaired from intake of alcohol, which comprises an isolated plant belonging to the genus *Hydrangea* is *Hydrangea macrophylla* Serice var. *Thunbergii* Makino or *Hydrangea Dulcis* Folium, or an extract of the plant.

50. (Currently Amended) A food and, drink or feed according to any of Claims 45 to 49, wherein the for protection or improvement of liver function which comprises an extract of the a residue obtained by extracting a plant of the family *Saxifragaceae* is an alcoholic with an aqueous medium, in which the extract of is obtained by extracting the residue of an aqueous medium extract of the plant of the family *Saxifragaceae* with alcohol or water containing alcohol.

Claim 51 (Cancelled).